

Feb/Mar
2017



Redding Christian Fellowship
Connection

From Pastor John

What an incredible time with Dr. Don Carson! It was so good to come together and have amazing teaching by someone so scholarly with such a great heart for the church and its effectiveness in following Jesus. Not only was our time enjoyable, but it also brought important reminders to you and me to think about how we have an impact on the community of Redding and the Sacramento River Valley.

It's important that we don't attend a series of messages like the ones that Dr. Carson preached and just come away thinking, "Wow! What amazing insights into those parables." It's too easy for us to fall into the trap of being a consumer of the Word without considering how to be doers of the Word. With that thought in mind, how should we respond to the challenges that Dr. Carson brought?

We must consider how God loves us and then how we are showing that same type of love to the people around us. It's easy to show love to the people who are like us - who have the same beliefs, standards, and morals. The higher calling, according to Jesus, is to love people who don't view life the same way we do: *"For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?...And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others?"* (Matthew 6:46-47)

We have to view life in light of eternity. We often get caught up in thinking about the temporal, when we should be focusing on the eternal. As we do that, the things that hurt us get put into perspective. "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. (1 Peter 5:10)" While we are going through painful circumstances, it doesn't seem like "a little while;" however, if we can think about those in light of eternity, we can see the purposes of God unfolding.

Viewing life in light of eternity also motivates us to share the gospel more fervently. I attended a conference where Andy Stanley stated, "We believe that everybody spends eternity somewhere." I'm convinced of that fact! We also know, and have experienced, the message that changes where we spend eternity.

Dr. Carson also reminded us that our responsibility is to "increase the assets of our Master." I loved the way he put this! Our lives have to be focused on increasing the Kingdom, through seeing an increase in the fruit of righteousness in our own lives and seeing people around us exposed to the gospel of grace.

How are you doing these in your life? Don't let Dr. Carson's time here become a fond memory of great teaching. Rather, let the

thoughts from Scripture that Dr. Carson brought help you become a little more like Jesus!

On a personal note...

Lori and I don't have words to express the gratitude that we feel for the way that you have welcomed us to Redding and to the Redding Christian Fellowship family. We already feel at home! You all have created such a sense of excitement as we begin our ministry and life here.

Thank you so much!

OUR RCF PRAYER FOR 2017



Dear Heavenly Father,

We do not cease to thank You for Your faithfulness! We marvel at your faithfulness to our Redding Christian Fellowship family over the days and years of the past. We praise You. We worship You! We thank you! And now as we stand on the threshold of a new year and as we anticipate a new chapter of ministry in our church, we renew our commitment to You and to one another. May we be inspired and encouraged by the promise of God to Israel as recorded by Isaiah the prophet, *"Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."* Grant to us the patience and understanding we need, as we search the Scriptures and seek to understand more fully, Your plan as it unfolds in our life as a church. May we always seek Your plan first and uppermost, and may our preferences, our selfish desires, and even our cherished traditions, take their lesser place. May our life be more and more of You and less of ourselves. Grant to us the willingness and the humility, to submit to You, to our leadership, and to one another. Grant to us the willingness to bear with one another and to be kindly devoted one to another, in honor preferring one another. Grant to us the desire to allow Your character to be ever more deeply implanted into our being, even if that means adversities we do not seek, or circumstances that are not of our own choosing. Fix our eyes on what is unseen and what will last for ever. May we be committed to serve You in 2017 with our time, talent and treasure. We stand together as one body, on this first day of 2017 in this prayer of dedication and commitment. And we offer this prayer in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, and the Head of our Church.

Amen.

Ministerial Staff:

- John Craft**
Lead Pastor
- Rick Penner**
Church Administration
- Ron Mapes**
Church Ministries
- Jerry Mapes**
Worship & Missions
- Jeff Lange**
Life Groups & Family Life
- Levi White & Kevin Rhoderick**
Middle School
- Caleb Little**
High School & IMPACT
- Mister Brown**
Preschool/Children's Ministry
- Tom Bryant**
Young Adults & IT Tech

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Missions

When was the last time you challenged yourself to do something that wasn't easy to do? I'm not talking about sticking to the latest diet or exercise program but something that stretches you spiritually and mentally. Many of you heard from one of our missionaries recently that inspired us to dream beyond the comfort zone of RCF. I guess that's why I love missions so much. Our missionaries live in a place where there are no borders. They live where the phrase "it can't be done" isn't used. I have always felt that the truly blessed are those that see the miraculous work of God because they give Him opportunity to display His goodness when the "it can't be done" is done! And who gets the glory? God and only God. I think at times it's easy for us to get comfortable in our church and our Christian lives and we fall into a mechanical routine and we lose the wonder of our salvation. King David's prayer is a prayer we need to pray. "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me." (Psalm 51:12) I want to challenge you to do something outside of your comfort zone. To allow God to use you in a way that maybe you haven't thought about before and pray. If you haven't experienced the miraculous give Him the opportunity to do it in you. I know it's not easy but be reminded of 1 Peter 1.

So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold, though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. 1 Peter 1:6-7

I was walking the stairs at Mercy Hospital today when I read the sign on the hand rails that said "the first step is the hardest but the last step is the most rewarding." I know they were talking about physical fitness but it's true of anything of great value. It's hard to get started but once you

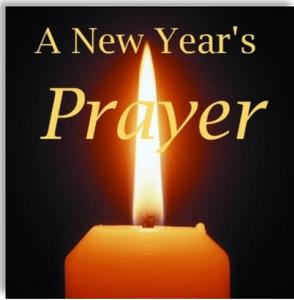
do it, it gets easier. It doesn't mean it won't have its challenges along the way but with each step you get closer to the finish line.

We need prayer warriors! In recent weeks several of our ministry partners have come under severe attack. Physical attack. (we have been asked not to share details at this point in time) As God prompts you to pray, PRAY! I have heard story after story of God's protection of His servants. Only by God's protection were they uninjured. Our prayer is that through this miraculous divine intervention many will see the power of the Most High and seek Him. Pick up a missionary prayer calendar in the foyer of the church and pray, but as the Holy Spirit brings people to your mind don't just think of them, pray for them. Who knows God may just use your prayer for His honor in a miraculous intervention.



Music Department

I want to thank everyone who worked so hard on our Christmas production "A Classic Christmas Noel". For the choir and orchestra, thank you, thank you, thank you! I know that was some of the most difficult music we've taken on and you did a spectacular job. Ron and I were very pleased and the response we have received was so encouraging. Thank you for all who attended.



Prayer - The Foundation for the New Year!

We have begun this new calendar year with a strong prayer emphasis. It is most gratifying to see our prayer room filled with RCF people who desire to pray. We are so glad that our office has received requests for the written prayer we prayed together as a congregation on January 1. It is printed here in our newsletter and is posted on our website.

Let us consider a few more thoughts on the topic of prayer. Is it possible that we complicate the matter too much? Is there really a special language or tone that is required in order for us to get God's attention? Could it not be said that prayer should be as simple as when two people have a conversation with each other? All of us can do that! People in love gush with each other and have no difficulty communicating. Later after many years of marriage, it seems to become more challenging. Few things are sadder than to see a couple eating breakfast in a restaurant where both parties have a newspaper or more recently an electronic device in their hands. Hardly a word is ever spoken between them! When they were first in love, it is certain that no newspaper could have ever been seen anywhere near them. Is it possible that our prayer lives demonstrate some parallels? Just asking!!!

Could we consider some practical suggestions?

1. Our Thursday, half hour prayer meeting at noon will continue. It is not convenient for many, but very convenient for those who have made it their priority to participate. Perhaps you can join us.
2. The short Redding commute to our Sunday services could be a wonderful prayer time. Those coming from greater distances would have even more time to pray for our pastors, our teachers, ushers, greeters, nursery workers, musicians, tech people, security, and anyone else involved in leading our worship services. We might especially pray for one another and for those who might be visiting for the very first time. We might pray for those who come with heavy hearts and great burdens. What is the atmosphere in your vehicle as you and your family drive to church services? A time of prayer might make it dramatically more pleasant and honoring to God, and your heart might be better prepared to worship as well.
3. Approximately 20 minutes before each service, a group always meets in our prayer room. Sometimes in the past it has only been one person present. In recent weeks the numbers have increased. Perhaps you could develop a mindset to arrive on our campus 20 minutes earlier than you have been used to coming.
4. One of the core values of our life group ministries is prayer. A person in your life group could be designated the prayer coordinator. This person could check with the church office each week to receive prayer updates and requests.
5. We have an email prayer chain with close to 100 participants. Are you one of those prayer warriors? Call the church office and you will receive help in joining this prayer team.
6. Our staff recently concluded that prayer should be a natural outgrowth of our conversations and discussions. We determined not to wait always for some regular designated prayer emphasis. Instead we are trying to simply speak out in prayer as we interact with one another. We desire for prayer to become as natural to us as breathing and eating.

Redding Christian Fellowship is entering into a new season of ministry and service. There is a spirit of anticipation and optimism among us. Let us not attempt to enter into this new chapter without building a strong foundation of prayer and maintaining an ongoing covering in prayer. Let us never think that our enemy will not seek to discourage or even destroy us. He will strive to take away the unity and loving spirit that is so evident among us. Prayer is our defense against the schemes of our enemy. Please be enlisted and deployed in the RCF prayer army!!!!

A Prayer Warrior Story!

One of our members shared that as he and his wife prepared to drive to our Sunday service a few weeks ago, he reached as his habit was, to turn on some praise music in his car. Just then his wife reminded him that we had encouraged our congregation to use their driving time to pray for our worship services and for those who lead them. So the radio was turned off and this couple prayed as they drove.

"No service was ever as meaningful as the worship service that Sunday", he reported.

It is unlikely that the service that day was really more profound or impactful than any other. It is more likely that the heart and mind of this person was better prepared because he prayed before he arrived for worship. What a beautiful story! Maybe this could be your story too.



Men's Ministries



Friday, March 3

At 6:30 P.M. at RCF

Bring your own steak to grill, sides and drinks will be provided so bring your appetite and enjoy an opportunity to connect with RCF Men. No fancy program, no agenda other than connection. **Watch for sign ups!**



Friendship
Utmost Authenticity
Encouragement
Lasting Integrity

FUEL provides a great opportunity to meet the men of RCF. We enjoy a great home cooked breakfast, (there is always plenty to eat) we spend a little time in worship and share some time around the Word of God. Invest in a relationship with men who will encourage you, support you, pray for you and share some good times. Bring a Friend!

Saturdays - Feb. 25 & March 25
at 8:00 A.M.
Tickets: \$4.00 advance
\$5.00 at the door



Men's Small Group Bible Study

You are invited to become a part of a life-changing experience. Men's Small Group Bible Studies is a great place to deepen your relationship with the Lord, get a firmer grasp on Biblical principles for relationships, home life, and business. If you are serious about developing a heart that is *AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART* then contact Ron Mapes @ ron@rcfellowship.org or call 222-3425 and he'll help you get connected.

P.E.P - People Enjoying People

P.E.P.



♦ People Enjoying People ♦



HYMN SING TO HIM

Thursday, February 9 at 9:30 A.M.

Tickets: \$2.00

Guest Soloist: Adele Morgan

Singer/Songwriter/Recording Artist from Wasilla, Alaska

Make your reservation and pay at the table in the foyer or the church office by **Tuesday, Feb. 7.**

LATE LUNCH & TOUR OF EXODUS FARMS

March 16 at 2:00 P.M. At Vittles in Anderson

3:30 Tour of Exodus Farms

Sign ups and an information sheet will be available closer to event date.



Sharon's Sharing...



I greet you all, dear ladies with wishes for a Happy New Year (for we, as believers, that translates to: an abundant, and ever increasing knowledge of God, and deepening trust in Christ, as we continue to grow in, and walk out our faith).

We in WIM (Women in Ministry, for those who might not recognize that acronym) have a vision for this year, 2017 to be filled with wonderful opportunities to expand the Kingdom and build rich friendships in the process.

In further expansion of my opening wish, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to any women who are new to RCF, (or perhaps you have been attending for a while but not certain how to get connected) and would love to learn what opportunities we offer, for you to become more involved, meet women who share your passions and desires and share a faith walk with them. We are continually striving to discover new ways for this to happen, and here are just a few:

Bible study connections are on-going. Our ladies Tuesday morning Bible study will offer TWO new studies beginning Feb. 21st. Watch for detailed information online, at rcfellowship.org, as well as in the Sunday bulletin, and overhead announcements. Sign ups will begin Feb.12th between services in the main auditorium foyer. This is a perfect time to study God's Word and build relationships with our ladies.

In service opportunities, we are needing women who have the gift of hospitality and would be willing to serve on a Memorial Meals team, 3 cycles a year. This team coordinates and serves at a reception following a memorial or celebration of life. It might involve willingness to be on a list of those willing to prepare food or to actively serve in food service set up, helping to decorate tables, washing a few dishes, or doing laundry of our table linens. All you " Martha's " will love this opportunity. I'd love to share more information with you, as to how you might become a needful part of this team. They are a blessing to people in their time of grief and loss as they provide a setting for gathering and sharing of memories of their loved ones. You can also call Liz, in our church office, to inform her of your interest to serve.

We are in the final stages of updating our NEW

WIM brochure that will be available for you to keep you informed of ongoing WIM activities, as well as a flyer enclosure that denotes all of the activities, learning and connecting opportunities 2017 will offer women. These opportunities not only allow us as a body of believers at RCF to connect with one another, it's a perfect chance to bring friends, neighbors and coworkers to check us out and experience the warm, engaging atmosphere that we offer.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not heartily welcome our new Pastor John Craft and his wife Lori. Hopefully, you will take the chance to extend your sincere welcome to Lori as we look forward to her presence here with us.

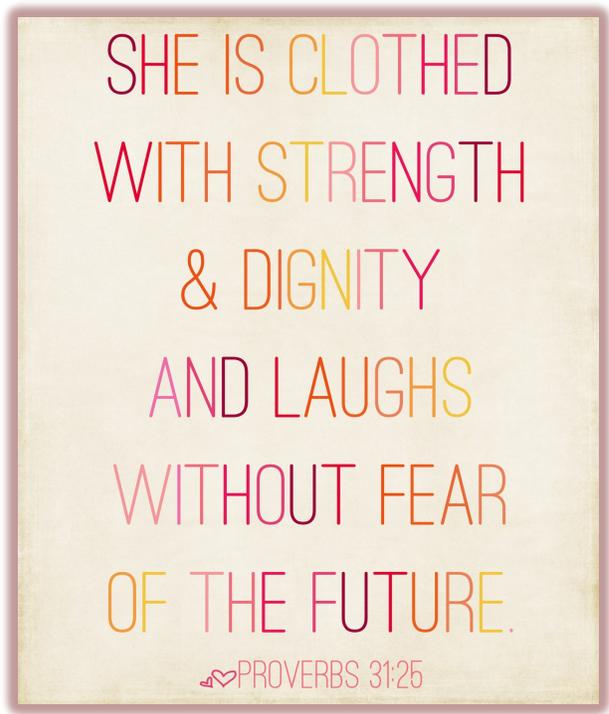
As the old gospel song goes....."I just FEEL like something GOOD is about to happen"!!! THIS YEAR at RCF and with WIM in particular, PLEASE stay informed, as there is always something happening that will honor God and bless and serve others !!

As always, I welcome your comments, questions, and ideas and I encourage your participation to make WIM all that God has intended it to be.

Blessings to you, and my sincere desire to serve alongside you!

Until next time,

Sharon





Past Events:

Baseline took a brief break from regular youth group over the Holidays to relax and have some fun. Over Christmas break we took advantage of all the snow up near Mt. Shasta and went sledding. It was a great time for our leaders and students to interact in a more casual setting where we could get to know each other. It was also an outreach event because many students invited their friends to join us. We then kicked off the new year with an evening at church of food and fun games. This was another fun event where we got to enjoy good fellowship together and invite students who hadn't been to youth group in a while.

Future Events:

This Winter, February 17th-19th Baseline will be going on a winter retreat to Mount Shasta. Over the weekend we build and strengthen the relationships we have with students through activities, Bible study, and worship. It's important to escape from the business of life every now and then to really be challenged and strengthened in our faith. That is what winter camp is all about. While at winter camp we hope to see some students give their life to Christ if they haven't already done so. For those who already are saved it is a time of growth and recommitment.

One of the important values we teach to our youth is the importance of serving others. For this reason we take several missions trips every year where we learn the value of putting others needs before our own. April 9th-15th Baseline will be teaming up with the Brink to go to San Diego for a missions trip to the inner city. This trip gives our students a glimpse into what poverty looks like in the United States. This trip is very valuable but a little more expensive than some closer destinations. For this reason we will be having several fundraiser lunches after church where we try to offset some of the extra costs. Please stay tuned for ways you may be able to help with Baseline events. We couldn't do all the great events without the generosity of those at RCF and the great leaders who volunteer their time and energy for the cause of Christ.

God is good.

Levi White & Kevin Rhoderick.



Old News:

December 28th the high school students had a great day together. The day started with shooting .22 rifles and shotguns. Jerry and Debi Wheeler graciously hosted us for lunch. After lunch we participated in an amazing race of sorts around Redding. Henry and Libby Niessink graciously hosted us for Dinner and the evening concluded up in Shingletown which was white with snow and warm with the hospitality of George and Vikki Passage. In order for the day to be successful many people contributed. Thank you to all of you.

New News:

The new year is upon us and that means a flurry of fundraisers, retreats and mission trips. We will be hosting a lunch after second service every month for the next 6 months to raise support for the individuals who are participating in the Mexico and San Diego Mission trips. Sunday January 29th we will having a soup and salad lunch. Sunday February 26th we will be having pulled pork sandwiches and Sunday, March 26th we will be having burritos and tacos. I hope you will enjoy the meals and support these mission trips.

The high school winter retreat is quickly approaching, Friday, February 17-19th. We will be headed up to Burney to stay at the Grace Community Bible Church. Our series for the weekend will be focused on applying Scripture to every aspect of our lives. If you have questions please check out the church website or contact the church office.

This Spring we will be headed to San Diego for a combined high school and middle school mission trip. We will hit the road early Sunday morning April 9th and return on Saturday April 15th. If you have any questions please check out the church website or contact the church office.

For His Glory and Honor,

Caleb

Those listed below are or have been ill or in the hospital, recuperating at home, have lost a loved one or welcomed a new little one into their family. Let's lift them up in prayer.



Illnesses

Nancy Best	Louis & Donleita Gerdes	Kathy Roberts
Margaret Brady	Darlene Idehara	Ed Robertson
Jody Charbonneau	Denny Kaufman	Kati Rosten
Shirley Coker	Susan Lay	Barb Spellman
Mary Doboyné	June Lee	Debbie Walters
Ed Fishburn	Laurie Lemon	Barbara Wiedenhoef
Judy Gama-Strausser	Mary Olsen	Shirley Wilson
	Sam Pitts	

Deaths

Douglas Wall	Amos Southard
Natalie Jakubowski	Roy Shaffer
Don Millard	Earl Kilduff

ATTENDANCE AND GENERAL FUND GIVING

Celebration

	<u>1st / 2nd</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Giving</u>
12/4/16.....	425/388.....	813.....	\$24,729.00
12/11/16.....	425/367.....	792.....	\$ 20,818.93
12/18/16.....	475/373.....	848.....	\$18,138.50
12/25/16.....	303.....	303.....	\$ 8,462.88
1/1/17.....	322.....	322.....	\$13,329.69
1/8/17.....	484/426.....	910.....	\$18,249.00
1/15/17.....	480/364.....	844.....	\$16,448.41
1/22/17.....	480/460.....	940.....	\$13,497.50



RCF PARENT SURVEY

Parents, we want to hear from you. Please visit rcfellowship.org/survey to fill out a survey regarding your experiences and your children's experiences with the youth ministries at RCF (CKM, BaseLine, & Brink). This is great feedback for evaluating and improving the youth ministries at RCF.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Below you will see the fiscal year to date (Oct - Dec) financial status of RCF. The Elder Board would like to keep the congregation better informed on the financial status of the church and the various projects that are ongoing at RCF. This will be published once a month and you are welcome to address any questions or concerns by contacting the church office.

As of December 31:

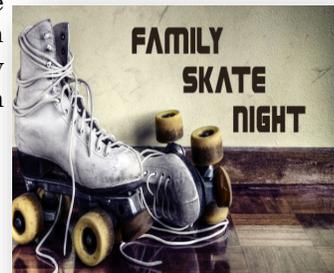
Fund:

General fund giving	\$261,809
Operating expenses:	\$263,635
Missions giving	\$60,054
Missionary funds disbursed:	\$55,965



The Impact mentoring program has been busy!!! Many of you helped prepare and serve a fancy ham dinner for Shasta Meadows. Still more of you helped, with very short notice, right before Christmas, to scramble and put together a spaghetti dinner at Rother Elementary. We so appreciate how you show love to families in our community. May these families begin to realize that the church is a resource to help them.

By the time you are reading this we will have just completed an Impact Training and Impact Skate Night at the end of January. We have another training directly following the second service in the main auditorium on Sunday April 2nd. We also have our final skate night on Saturday, April 22nd at Viking Skate Country from 4:45-6:45pm. We will be inviting RCF families and the families of 4 other elementary schools. Please be in prayer that relationships would be built that would open an opportunity for some to accept the Gospel message.



For His Glory and Honor,

Caleb



**REDDING CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP**

2157 Victor Avenue
Redding, CA 96002

OUR ELDERS

Ken Abbott
Duane Helle (chairman)
John Kelley
John Chelonis
Troy Foster

Ken McDonald
Bruce Schlange
Rick Penner
John Craft

OUR DEACONS

Dave Donarico
Bill Hawes (chairman)
Dan Londen
Gary Kalsbeek
George Rhoderick

Don Dunham
Don Greene
Robert Andrade

Phone: 530-222-3425
Fax: 530-222-3490
www.rcfellowship.org

CONTACT US:

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Celebration Services - 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Main Auditorium

VISION STATEMENT

We are all pilgrims engaged in a journey of evangelism and discipleship, where worship is complete and teaching is a guided discovery of the Truth. We will devote ourselves to our families and to each other across generational and traditional lines. We will commit ourselves to our community with integrity of character as ministers of mercy.

MISSION STATEMENT

Redding Christian Fellowship is a loving family of believers dedicated to Worship, Instruction, Fellowship, and Evangelism with the purpose of developing devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

God is the true and living God who revealed Himself through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. We accept the Bible as God's infallible Word and our only rule of faith and practice.

We accept Jesus Christ as God's divine Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit, virgin born, who died on the cross as the substitutional sacrifice for our sin. He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven where He is now our interceding Priest. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Man was created in the image of God but fell into sin. We have all sinned in our own right and need a Savior to save us from the penalty of our sins.

Salvation is by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Human Sexuality: Legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Marriage is a profound spiritual institution established by God. This church recognizes marriage as exclusively the legal union of one man and one woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment.

The church is a body of believers, who, by the influence of the Holy Spirit, were baptized into one body.